

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino **Josie Gonzales Fifth District**

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JULY 20, 2005

**JGFDS-PR-130 BIC-LAFCO APPLICATION
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUPERVISOR FUNDS SPECIAL COUNSEL TO REVIEW BLOOMINGTON INCORPORATION APPLICATION

(San Bernardino, CA) Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales will allocate up to \$10,000 to pay for an outside attorney to review documents a group of Bloomington residents have submitted in their bid to become a city.

The Bloomington Incorporation Commission has filed an application with the Local Agency Formation Commission that requests that their community be removed from the spheres of influence of the cities of Fontana and Rialto. This is a required step toward cityhood for Bloomington.

LAFCO's legal counsel, Clark Alsop, recused himself from assisting LAFCO on this application, because he is also Fontana's City Attorney. As a result, LAFCO must hire special counsel to review and advise LAFCO on Bloomington's application. LAFCO policy as currently written requires the Bloomington group to pay the attorney fees.

"The residents of Bloomington did not cause this conflict, therefore it is not fair for them to incur the cost for the special counsel," said Supervisor Gonzales. "I take this action so that the residents of Bloomington have a fair opportunity to have their application reviewed by a neutral law firm."

LAFCO commissioners today postponed a decision about hiring special legal counsel and charging the Bloomington group in order to review the fairness of their policy. Supervisor Gonzales notified LAFCO Executive Office Kathleen Rollings-McDonald today that she would pay for the special counsel.

Supervisor Gonzales will allocate the funds from her Priority Policy Needs Budget, which provides her the discretion to finance unique, unanticipated community needs.

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